

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6578

INFO USUN NEW YORK 798

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 2011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, UN

SUBJECT: INITIATIVES AT UN OUTER SPACE MEETING IN NEW YORK

REF: STATE 121247

1. SCICOUNS MET WITH DEPY DIR, EXTAFI SCI OFFICE, MAY 28, TO DISCUSS REFTEL PER DEPT INSTRUCTIONS. FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED: IT WAS VIEW OF EXTAFI SCI THAT PROBLEMS INVOLVED LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND ORGAIZATIONAL ASPECTS OF REMOTE SENSING WERE SUFFICIENTLY COMPLEX AND POLITICAL (ALBEIT WITH ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS) THAT THIS SUBJECT WILL DRAG ON IN A STATE OF LIMBO UNTIL THERE IS A SUFFICIENTLY LARGE INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN ACTUAL OPERATIONS TO HAVE CREATED A DE FACTO PROCEDURE FOR COPING WITH THE ENTIRE EARTH SENSING PROGRAM. ALTHOUGH NOT SPECIFICALLY ENUNCIATED, SCICOUNS DERIVED IMPRESSION THAT CANADIANS HAVE ABOUT ABANDANED HOPE OF WORKABLE COMPROMISE IN NEAR FUTURE AND HAVE DECIDED TO SIMPLY ADOPT LOW-PROFILE POSITION FOR TIME BEING. EXTAFI SCI OFFICER EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IN DUE COURSE "THE LAWYERS WILL HAVE TO DEVELOP AND ACCORD A DE JURE STATUS TO A DE FACTO SITUATION."

2. WITH REFERENCE TO DIRECT TELEVISION BROADCASTING (DBS), EXTAFI SCI OFFICER INDICATED THAT CANADIANS INTENDED TO CONTINUE LOW-PROFILE ACTIVITY AT NY MEETING TO FURTHER REFINE AND GAIN ACCEPTABILITY
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FOR "SWEDISH-CANADIAN COMPROMISE FORMULA" WHICH WAS FLOATED LATE

LAST YEAR. HE FURTHER INDICATED THAT SWEDES HAVE SUGGESTED CANADIANS TAKE INITIATIVE IN FURTHER BILATERAL REFINEMENT OF FORMULA WITH U.S.

3. WITH RESPECT TO MOON TREATY, GOC WAS HOPEFUL THAT LDCS WOULD NOT PUSH INDIAN OR RELATED POSITION. THEY HAVE HAD NO INDICATION THEMSELVES THAT THIS MIGHT OCCUR BUT WILL SEND THEIR REP TO UN COMMITTEE WITH INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WOULD PERMIT HIM TO GENERALLY SUPPORT US POSITION IN EVENT THAT LDCS MAKE CONCENTRATED DRIVE.

4. EXTAFF SCI OFFICER INDICATED THAT IT WAS THEIR "CONSENSUS HOPE" THAT BRAZILIANS MAY BE BECOMING SOMEWHAT MORE REASONABLE AND SEARCHING FOR A FORMULATION WHICH WOULD PERMIT THEM TO MOVE SOMEWHAT CLOSER TO US POSITION ON EARTH SENSING WITHOUT APPEARING TO HAVE MADE RADICAL CHANGE IN THEIR ORIGINAL OBJECTION TO US POSITION. IF EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO DEPT ALSO INDICATES THAT THIS MAY BE THE SITUATION AND MATTER IS CONSIDERED SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT, THE DEPT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER AN APPROPRIATE LOW-KEY, HIGH-LEVEL APPROACH TO BRAZILIANS DESIGNED TO FACILITATE THEIR MOVEMENT TOWARD A MORE REASONABLE POSITION.

5. INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE MEETING TO FINALIZE CANADIAN POSITION FOR JUNE 19-20 MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 30. EXTAFF SCI OFFICER PROMISED TO INFORM EMBASSY IF THERE WERE ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN CANADIAN POSITION AS A RESULT OF THAT MEETING.
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